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ABSTRACT

Pornography is an issue that is drawing increased attention from parents, teachers, church members, women's groups, and elected officials, and these groups are expressing concern about the effect pornography has on young people, families, and society as a whole. In response to public concern, this self-help education guide is designed for families and societal groups to help them better understand the subject and the controversy that surrounds it; and outlines responsibility areas and ways that government, consumers, and businesses can work together toward resolving the issue. The guide defines pornography and what is considered pornographic, its purchasers, effect on society, availability, content, and censorship issues. Federal, provincial, and municipal legislation is reviewed in the section, "Pornography and the Law." The guide also contains a basic outline for a community education workshop and guidelines for letter writing. The resource list includes addresses for government agencies, major political parties, radio and television broadcasting corporations, and citizen groups and titles of films, books and articles, research books, and recent surveys on violence and pornography. (DJC)

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Saskatchewan
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Pornography: A Guide To Community and Family Education

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Where to Begin?

Pornography is an issue which is drawing increased attention and concern in Saskatchewan. Many people including parents, teachers, church members, women's groups and elected officials are concerned about the effect pornography has on young people, families and society as a whole.

The subject of pornography is a controversial and complicated one. Because it is such a sensitive issue and because there is a good deal of confusion and disagreement as to exactly **what** is pornographic as well as **who** is responsible for doing something about it, efforts to effectively address the subject are often hampered.

The first step in working toward a solution to this complex subject is for concerned individuals and groups to inform and educate themselves about the topic.

In response to public interest, Saskatchewan Consumer & Commercial Affairs has developed this self-help education kit. **Pornography: A Guide to Family and Community Education** has been designed to assist families, church and community groups, educators, high school students, businesses and members of the public to better understand the subject and the controversy which surrounds it. As well, the kit outlines responsibility areas and ways that government, consumers and business can work together toward resolving the issue.

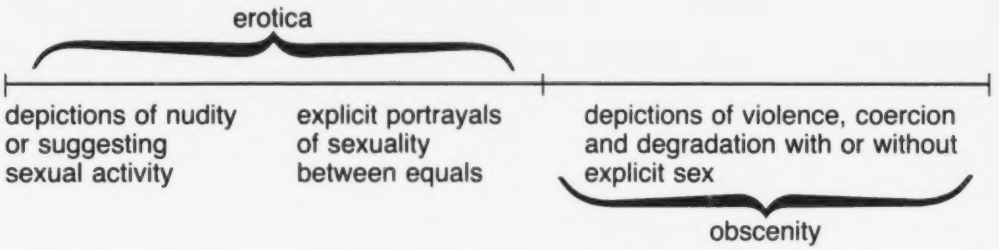
Pornography: A Guide to Family and Community Education draws on the work of a number of groups (see Resource List) across Canada as well as on a large body of research to provide a framework which is as objective as possible to explore this subject. The key to the eventual elimination of pornography is an informed, educated and involved citizenry.

The Problem

1. Pornography: What Is It?

Pornography is difficult to define. Different people hold different views about which depictions in film, video, print, literature, advertising, etc. are pornographic. A person's definition depends on his/her individual values, education, background and peers. Very often people's views on this topic are also highly charged.

The Range of Public Opinion On a Definition of Pornography


erotica
depictions of nudity or suggesting sexual activity
explicit portrayals of sexuality between equals
depictions of violence, coercion and degradation with or without explicit sex
obscenity

- At one end is the view that **any** illustration of nudity or sexual activity is pornographic.
- Toward the middle is the view that there is nothing wrong with sexual explicitness. This view tends to distinguish between the erotic and the pornographic. Here the degree of sexual explicitness is not the concern but rather the nature of the relationship between the participants.

  Supporters of this view are opposed to depictions of violence, coercion, degradation and the involvement of children. Such depictions constitute their view of what is pornographic.
- At the far end of the range is the belief that all types of depictions should be available to consumers who can choose for themselves what they wish to view.

Common Terms Used When Discussing Pornography

These definitions have been compiled from a range of sources to provide a **general** understanding of how and when the terms are used.

Adult – Material which may contain depictions of nudity, sexuality, violence and may or may not be judged by different individuals to be pornographic.

Erotica – "the portrayal of sexual expression between two people who desire each other and have entered the relationship with mutual agreement."[1]

– "literature or art dealing with sexual love."[2]

Obscenity – is a term used in Canada's **Criminal Code** and comes from the Latin "of cenum" -- "about filth". Under Section 159 of the **Criminal Code of Canada** all material "a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex. . ." is considered "obscene".

Sexually explicit materials are those which show sexual activity which can be graphic or suggestive often showing close-ups of genitals or of actual sexual activities. The participants are not necessarily humiliated, degraded or subjected to violence.

Sexist materials are those which treat one sex, usually women, as inferior beings and imply that they are objects to be used for sexual pleasure.

Sexually Violent materials are those in which women, children or men are beaten, raped or tortured in sexual situations. As well, in this category are materials which do not necessarily include sex, but contain scenes of such brutal violence as to be considered "pornographic".

Definitions, Definitions, Definitions

The lack of a clear, commonly agreed upon definition for pornography is a major stumbling block in resolving the issue. A selection of definitions which reflect the range of public opinion follows:

Definitions Focussing on Abuse

Definitions of pornography which focus on sexism, violence, domination and degradation rather than on explicit sex include:

- Material which "depicts, condones and encourages acts of domination, degradation and violence toward women (children or men)".[3]
- "Pornography is a presentation, whether live, simulated, verbal, pictorial, filmed or videotaped, or otherwise represented, of sexual behaviour in which one or more participants are coerced overtly or implicitly, into participation or are injured or abused physically or psychologically; or in which an imbalance of power is obvious, or implied by virtue of the immature age of any participant or by contextual aspects of the presentation, and in which such behaviour can be taken to be advocated or endorsed".[4]
- "The depiction of a sex act combined with humiliation and degradation."[5]

Definitions Focussing on Sexuality

A definition of pornography which focusses on explicit sex as well as on violence is:

- "If the people in the representation . . . seem to be 'consenting adults' rather than people involved in 'degrading' or 'demeaning' activity, the material could still be pornographic . . . Pornography should be defined so as to include . . . explicit sexual acts."[6]
- Proposed **Criminal Code** definition.
  1. visual depictions of:
     (a) Children or young people engaged in sexual conduct
     (b) extreme violence in a sexual context
     (c) sexually violent behaviour
     (d) degrading acts in a sexual context
     (e) bestiality, incest, or necrophilia
     (f) certain sexual conduct, and
  2. any matter or commercial communication that incites, promotes or encourages any activity referred to in (e) above.[7]

Note: In this kit, the term "adult" will be used to cover the range of potentially "pornographic" material (depending on individual viewpoints) from erotica to obscenity.

What Do You Consider To Be Pornographic?

Individual Clarification Exercise

Following is an exercise to help you clarify your own view or values with regard to pornography.

Do you consider the following situations to be "pornographic" or "not pornographic"? Place a check mark under the appropriate column.

	Pornographic	Not Pornographic
1. Depiction of nudity		
2. Depiction of sexual activity		
3. Suggestions of sexual activity (even if not shown)		
4. Depictions of sexual activity involving children		
5. Depictions of sexual activity involving animals		
6. Depictions of sexual activity involving violence, torture, crime, cruelty, horror		
7. Depictions of violence, torture, crime, cruelty or horror		
8. Depictions of abuse or humiliation of humans for sexual gratificiation		
9. Depictions of abuse or humiliation of humans which is shown to be pleasing to the victim		
10. Depictions of sexual activity including urination, defecation or vomiting		
11. Depictions of urination, defecation or vomiting		
12. Depictions of sexual activity including masturbation		
13. Depictions of masturbation		
14. Depictions of human genitals		

2. The Availability of Pornography

In Canada today, pornography or "adult" entertainment has grown into a billion dollar industry. "Adult" depictions are everywhere including magazines, books, films, videos, record covers and cannot be escaped by adults or children.

The availability of "adult" material continues to increase with technological advances such as VCR's and satellite dishes bringing them into individual homes.[8]

The number of "adult" magazine titles available has increased sharply in the past 20 years. By the early 1980's there were 540 titles in this category.[9]

Close to Home

A 1982 survey of retail outlets in Regina found that:
- over 100 stores were carrying "adult magazines";
- in 80 of these stores, the material was less than five feet from the floor and accessible to children.

A follow-up survey in 1984, concentrating on downtown Regina, found that:
- the average number of titles carried had increased from 36 (1982) to 42;
- the material was accessible to children in 13 out of 15 stores; and,
- more than 200 titles were readily available.[10]

Availability of "Adult"/Pornographic Materials

1950	1960	1970	1980
a few magazines available in specialized stores	increased number of magazines	home VCR's common	wide range of videos and magazines available cost of videos low
	increased number and range of stores selling magazines	large scale videotape duplication inexpensive and quick	magazines and videotapes available from many stores including corner stores and drug stores
			"adult" channels on pay TV

Some interesting facts:

- **Playboy** and **Penthouse** are the best selling magazines in Canada with sales of 300,000 and 500,000 copies per month respectively.[11]
- A 1984 survey of adult Canadians revealed that 11% had purchased an "adult" magazine in the last 12 months.
- A further 32% had leafed through or read such a magazine.
- 12% had bought or rented "adult-only" videotapes during the previous year.

- The same survey showed that 57% of those surveyed had watched television programs showing nude adults at least once during the past year. 43% had viewed programs containing scenes of heterosexual intercourse and 57% had witnessed sex combined with violence.[12]

Note: This survey examined the use of "adult" material, a broad category. Whether or not an individual would consider any or all of it to be pornographic is a matter of individual opinion.

3. The Content of Pornography

The growth of the "mainstream" adult entertainment industry began in Canada approximately 30 years ago when **Playboy Magazine** became acceptable and popular to a wide range of people. When it was first introduced, the content focussed on nudity combined with sophisticated photography and serious articles by noted writers. While many people believe that such depictions dehumanize and objectify women, others today would not consider this form of adult material to be pornographic.

Much of the "adult" material distributed in Canada now looks nothing like the **Playboy Magazine** of the 60's. Today a wide range of materials and images are available. They range from the "naughty" pictures of the 50's with partially nude women in suggestive poses; to photos of the 70's depicting women fully nude, with exposed genitalia and graphic scenes of simulated sex; through to depictions of sexual degradation and violence.

The following chart shows how the content of adult material/pornography has changed in just 15 years.[13]

CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY STANDARDS OF TOLERANCE

◇ The line was here about 16 years ago. *The line is moving over* ◇

			(Canadian Courts are currently drawing the line here.) ◇			
		Playboy	*Hustler*			
			Penthouse	OBSCENITY		
			(defined in section 159, sub-section 8 of the Criminal Code)			
Partial Nudity	Total Nudity	Simulated Sex Acts	Simulated Sexual Acts	Hardcore Sex (penetration, oral sex)	Bestiality Sexual violence Degradation	Child Pornography

4. The Issues and Other Considerations

A. Who Buys/Uses Pornography?

A study conducted in 1984 found that:
- male buyers of "adult" magazines outnumber female buyers 3 to 1.
- people with less than eight years of education bought fewer magazines than those with more education.
- the unemployed are overrepresented among those who buy the magazines.
- young people outnumber older buyers.
- single buyers outnumber married.
- consumers tend to come from Ontario and the west rather than Quebec and the Atlantic region.[14]

B. The Effects of Adult Material/Pornography

Many concerns have been raised about the **effect** or **impact** pornography has on the individuals who use it and on the society as a whole.

The extent to which "adult" images have infiltrated virtually every aspect of society causes concern. Some researchers suggest that the problem is not only the heavy use of pornography by a few people but also use beyond an acceptable level by a large number of people. The fact that some of this use may be unconscious and accidental rather than deliberate further complicates things.[15]

Additional concerns arise about children's exposure to pornography. This may be accidental as when a child leafs through magazines at the corner newstand, or it may be deliberate as when youngsters seek out such materials for amusement or as a way to understand their own developing sexuality.[16] Because young people are impressionable and have less stable attitudes about sexuality, many people fear that they may be more easily influenced by pornography than are adults.

Concerns
Included in the concern about pornography is that it potentially:
- exploits human sexuality, diminishing human relationships, human dignity and spirituality;
- expresses and fosters contempt and hatred toward other people, women in particular, and contributes to increases in violence toward women and children;
- confuses and distorts young people's and adults' concept of healthy sexuality;
- desensitizes consumers to pain and degradation inflicted on others and stimulates aggression; and,
- erodes our common humanity with troubling consequences to the health and well-being of our society and its members.

Messages
Many researchers and writers on the subject fear that pornography delivers messages such as:
- Promiscuity and immediate sexual gratification are the norm.
- Violence is a part of normal sexuality.
- Women exist only as objects for male sexual pleasure.

- A power imbalance exists between men and women with men dominant and women submissive.
- Sexual activity between children and adults is normal and acceptable.
- Women want to be raped but cannot admit it because of sexual inhibitions (the rape myth).

Some Questions to Consider:
- Does pornography influence an individual's/society's attitudes? Values? Behaviour?
- How much exposure is too much?
- At what point does pornography begin to cause harm?

C. The Research

A good deal of research has been undertaken regarding the effects of pornography. **While the research is not yet conclusive, and there is controversy regarding findings and their interpretation,** there is sufficient evidence to support a concern that pornography **can** influence the attitudes and behaviours of viewers. Findings indicate a correlation between pornography and aggression and violence against women and children.

Some recent studies which show a relationship between violence and pornography are listed in the Resource List #5.

There is research evidence to support that violent pornography which is highly sexually arousing is more likely to lead to aggression than material which is less arousing.

Material which shows sexual violence having positive consequences, such as sexual pleasure for the victim, appears to be particularly dangerous. This type of depiction is more likely to lead to real-life violence than material which shows sexual violence having negative consequences. In laboratory settings it has been shown that it increases people's acceptance of "rape myths" (that women want to be raped) and their acceptance of interpersonal violence against women. Research indicates that men, given massive exposure to pornography in experimental situations, tend to view rape as a more trivial offence than those who have not had such exposure.

D. Freedom of Speech and Expression

The question of **censorship** is a highly controversial issue in the pornography debate.

There are two conflicting positions regarding human rights around this issue. The right to freedom of speech versus people's (women's, children's and men's) right to dignity and safety.

Freedom of Speech Position
- stresses the fundamental importance of freedom of speech in a democratic society and points to the evils of totalitarian regimes which use censorship to control the citizenry.

Right to Safety and Dignity Position
- suggests that the harm from restricting pornography is significantly less than the harm which results from its availability. Proponents point to a number of areas where freedom of speech is already restricted in Canada

1.1a

"for the greater good". For example, Section 243.4 of the **Criminal Code** makes it an offence, punishable by a maximum sentence of 5 years in jail, to threaten death or injury to another person.

While legislated restrictions exist and are evolving with the anticipated changes to the **Criminal Code,** these alone cannot solve the problem. Ours is a democratic society and individual expression and choice are essential. **The solution then may better lie in education and community involvement.**

[1] Margaret Laurence, "On Censorship" (A Speech Given to the Ontario Provincial Judges and Their Spouses), Peterborough, Ontario, June 2, 1983, quoted in **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report), p. 57.

[2] Random House, revised edition, 1980.

[3] Debra Lewis, quoted in: **Respecting Human Dignity,** Presentation by the Government of Saskatchewan to The Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution. Regina: April 5, 1984. p. 2.

[4] Ridington, Jillian. Pornography: What does the new research say? **Status of Women News,** Vol. 8, #3, Summer 1983. p. 9.

[5] Harty, Colm. "Pornography: An Issue for Educators", Ontario Catholic Teachers' Association, 1985.

[6] REAL Women of Canada quoted in: **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report). p. 70

[7] **Amendments to the Criminal Code Regarding Pornography,** News Conference Kit, Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, Ottawa, May 4, 1987.

[8] This discussion is adapted from, "Respecting Human Dignity", Presentation by the Government of Saskatchewan to the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution, Regina: April 5, 1984.

[9] Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution. **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada; Report of the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution** (Fraser Report). Ottawa: Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1985, p. 89.

[10] "Respecting Human Dignity", Government of Saskatchewan, 1984, p. 4-5.

[11] **Badgley Report** cited in **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report). p. 91.

[12] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report), 90-91.

[13] This chart is used with the permission of The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. It originally appeared in their publication **Pornography: An Issue for Educators.** Toronto: The Association, 1985.

[14] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada (Fraser Report). p. 90.**

[15] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada (Fraser Report). p. 90.**

[16] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada (Fraser Report). p. 566.**

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What Can Be Done: Approaches and Solutions

There is no simple solution to pornography. The combined efforts of governments (federal, provincial and municipal), community, church and interest groups, concerned citizens as well as businesses are required if its general tolerance and availability are to be curtailed and turned around.

There appear to be 3 main approaches or areas of activity in addressing the issue:

1. **Education/public awareness** — Many writers on the subject believe that a major reason for the acceptance and proliferation of pornography is a lack of public knowledge as to **what** is out there (the disturbing content) and a lack of understanding of the potential impact and what can and/or should be done. When people are aware of the problem and understand the complexities, they will be able to choose for themselves and act regarding this issue.
2. **Individual/Community Involvement** — Individuals, groups and associations have the ability and the responsibility to communicate with and to influence governments and businesses. Citizen involvement and action are keys to any solution.
3. **Legislation** — A range of laws at various government levels currently exist or are being revised to address the problem. While legislation can assure a level of control, on its own it cannot bring about long term or total removal of pornographic materials from our society.

As well, 3 main groups or "players" can be identified as having a role and responsibility in finding a solution.

1. **Concerned Citizens** — Individuals and groups educating themselves and becoming actively committed and involved.
2. **Businesses** — Through compliance with the law relating to the subject and by being responsive and responsible to the best interests of their customers and society.
3. **Governments** — At the federal, provincial and municipal levels by enacting and administering appropriate legislation and through the provision of public education and information programs.

Players	Approaches		
Concerned Citizens individuals, community, women's and church groups, educators, professional and business associations, elected officials.	**Education/Public Awareness**	**Individual & Community involvement/action**	**Legislation**
Businesses		Responsibility responsiveness.	Compliance.
Governments (federal, provincial, municipal)			

1. What Government Can Do

Legislation, education and information are the tools used by government to protect society, families and individuals from pornography. But government's role is far from simple. Governments in a democratic society by definition must respond to, represent fairly and implement the "will of the people". Governments are lobbied by interest groups to take action, amend legislation, etc. With the issue of pornography, government's role is particularly difficult as there are so many divergent opinions.

As we have seen, people disagree on what is pornographic and on the effects of pornography. There is also disagreement on how the problem should be solved and on the role government should play in addressing and/or regulating pornography.

Some individuals hold a moral position which views pornography as a force that destroys traditional values, weakens the family and contributes to the decline of social stability. They believe that governments should place strict controls on pornography. Others see it as an issue of personal freedom and believe that governments should not intervene unless there is clear proof that pornographic materials cause physical harm or threat to individuals. A third perspective on pornography takes a human rights view and holds that it promotes physical violence toward women and children and violates their rights to be treated with dignity and respect as equal members of society. Advocates of this position want severe restrictions on pornography.

A. Legislation

The range of views which exist concerning the control of pornography and government's role make it difficult for governments to legislate. Regardless of what laws are passed (or not passed) there will always be individuals and groups who disagree and continue to press for legislative change. Because views on this topic vary so greatly, developing laws which satisfy all groups in society require a great deal of discussion and a certain amount of compromise from all parties concerned.

The following chart summarizes the most important legislation relating to pornography at each of the three levels of government.

Federal Level

The **Criminal Code,** Section 159 makes it an offence to publish, distribute or have obscene material in one's possession.

The **Criminal Code,** Section 161 makes it an offence for wholesalers to tie the distribution of "obscene" material to the distribution of "non-obscene" materials.

The **Customs Tariff Act,** Section 14 makes it an offence to import materials of an immoral or indecent character into Canada.

The **Criminal Code,** Section 164 makes it an offence to use the mail to deliver anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous.

The **Canada Post Corporation Act** provides that any material prohibited entry under the Customs Tariff Act or is obscene under the **Criminal Code** may be refused entry to Canada.

The **Broadcasting Act** gives the C.R.T.C. the right to regulate regular and pay T.V.

The **Criminal Code,** Section 281 makes distribution of hate propaganda an offence.

The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** gives all citizens equal protection under the law as well as the right to freedom of expression.

Provincial Level (Saskatchewan)

The **Film and Video Classification Act** requires that the Film Classification Board view and classify all films and videos available to the public in Saskatchewan.

The **Saskatchewan Human Rights Code** ensures that people will not be deprived of their rights or dignity because of their race, creed, colour or sex.

Municipal Level

Some municipalities use licensing and zoning laws to control the activities of shops selling pornography.

For more detail, see "Pornography and the Law", page 19.

B. Education and Public Information

Legislation is not the only approach that governments can take in working to resolve the problem of pornography. Education and public information programs can be very effective and in the longer term can be the most effective way of addressing the issue.

Education programs and resources such as this guide seek to provide individuals and groups with the knowledge and skills to fully comprehend the complexities of the issue and decide for themselves appropriate courses of action. **Educated and informed consumers can make their opinions known and exercise personal choice and power in the marketplace.**

2. What Consumers Can Do

People who are concerned about pornography can play a significant role in dealing with the issue. Problems are solved by the actions of many individuals who express their concern. Together individuals and groups can create a powerful force for change.

Dialogue and education are two important tools in resolving the problem of pornography. People who understand the issues underlying the problem are better prepared to participate in the community action necessary for its resolution. The suggestions which follow describe ways that individuals and groups can promote education and dialogue in their own communities, in the province and in the country as a whole.

Another way of affecting change is for an individual to use his/her "consumer clout". In our free-market society you can make your opinions known by refusing to buy materials that offend you, by speaking out, and by refusing to support companies that produce and distribute such materials.

What You Can Do as an Individual and as a Family

- Educate yourself about the content of pornography. Take a friend or family member and browse through the magazines at a local newstand. Educating yourself is important because most people are unaware of what's available.
- Read as much about the problem of pornography as you can. The items listed in the "Basic Reading" section of the **Resource List** which concludes this kit are a good beginning. Share your reading material with others in your family.
- With others in your family or community, view the films **Killing Us Softly** or **Not A Love Story. (Not a Love Story** is not suitable for children and could offend some adults). Addresses where these films may be obtained are listed in the **Resource List.**
- Talk to members of your family and your community about the problem. Discuss:
  - your feelings and concerns
  - the content of the material that you've seen
  - who is using poronography.
- Attend a workshop on the topic.
- Join an anti-pornography organization. Some are listed in the **Resource List.**
- Write letters expressing your concern to the producers and distributors of pornography and to political figures. Guidelines for letter writing are included in the **For Further Information and Help. . .** section at the end of this kit.
- Write articles and letters to the editor on the topic.
- Wear anti-pornography buttons and display bumper stickers.
- Prepare yourself to go on open-line radio shows (rehearse possible questions and answers first with a friend).
- Speak to your school board and church about the need for educational programs which give a positive view of human sexuality. Such programs will help ensure that adolescents don't turn to pornography for information about sex.
- Help monitor compliance to laws such as video classification in retail outlets and approach the business if classification stickers aren't apparent.
- Approach local merchants by letter, by telephone or in person and encourage them to stop selling pornography. (See page 21 for information on "Tied Sales").
- Support merchants who choose not to sell pornographic materials.
- Use MediaWatch forms. MediaWatch is a national group dedicated to improving the portrayal of women and girls in the media by eliminating sexist and pornographic images and by encouraging the creation of images that reflect the changing and diverse roles of women in Canadian society. MediaWatch distributes forms which members of the public can use to file complaints about offensive images. The address of MediaWatch appears in the **Resource List.**

What You Can Do as a Community or Group Member

- Organize an educational community/group workshop on pornography. An outline for such a workshop is included in the **For Further Help. . .** section of this booklet.
- Invite members from anti-pornography groups to speak to your community or church group.
- Invite a member of the local police force to speak to your community group. Ask the police officer to describe the kind of public complaint required before the police can take action, police procedures when dealing with concerns about pornography, etc.
- Have representatives from your community meet with school, city and government officials to express your concerns.
- As a community group, write to producers and distributors of objectionable materials and to political figures. Letters from groups represent several people and carry more weight than letters from individuals. Guidelines for letter writing are provided later in this booklet. Addresses to which you can write appear in this booklet's **Resource List.**
- If you find material that you believe contravenes the obscenity provisions in the **Criminal Code,** take it to your local police department and make a written complaint, mentioning the contravention of the Code. Complaints establish "community standards"; if you don't complain, there will be no action. The police will view the material and make a recommendation to Crown Counsel on whether or not to prosecute. Ask for the decision in writing from the person who made it.
- If you are dissatisfied with the content of television programs, write to the head of the network on which the program appeared, the federal Minister of Communications and the President of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. Their addresses appear in the **Resource List.**
- Join forces with other individuals and groups who are also opposed to pornography. If you can show that you have broad support you'll have greater influence on the producers and distributors of pornography.
- If you are offended by ads on television or in magazines and billboards complain to the industry and to the particular media which are carrying the ad.

3. What Business Can Do

Business, along with government and the consumer, has a role to play in solving the problem of pornography. Business people can be actively involved by demonstrating responsible adherence to government regulations respecting pornography and "adult" materials, by educating themselves about the issue and by being responsive and responsible to their customers.

In Saskatchewan a number of retail outlets are responding to customer concerns and requests and are no longer selling pornographic/"adult" materials. Others are taking care in displaying these materials to place them out of the reach of young people.

The growing public concern on the subject has meant that many businesses involved in any way with pornographic/"adult" materials are receiving public complaints. Their handling of these complaints and the response given reflects their sense of responsibility to their customers.

Business people who sell or rent films and videos in the province can demonstrate responsibility by adherence to **The Film and Video Classification Act.** The law requires that they submit all their materials for classification, label the classified materials with appropriate stickers, and withdraw any materials which have been disapproved by the Film and Video Classification Board.

Adherence to **The Film and Video Classification Act** can gain positive business results for film and video retailers. When customers know that the materials they are renting or purchasing have been classified under the Act they have some assurance that their family is protected. This gives retailers heightened legitimacy and standing in the community and may in fact increase the amount of business which they do.

For Further Information & Help

To provide you with additional information and assistance are four supplementary resources:

- **Pornography and The Law**
- **Community Education Workshop on Pornography**
- **Guidelines for Letter Writing**
- **Resource List**

Pornography and the Law

The laws relating to pornography are varied and difficult to enforce. Presently, all three levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal) are involved to varying degrees.

I. Federal Legislation

The federal government has the "lion's share" of responsibility and jurisdiction for enacting and administering legislation to control pornography. There are several pieces of federal legislation which can be used to this end. The chief piece of federal legislation which endeavors to address and control pornography is the **Criminal Code of Canada.**

A. The Criminal Code and Obscenity

While in the current legislation, the word "pornography" itself is never used, section 159 makes it an offence to make, publish, distribute, sell or have in one's possession "any obscene written matter, picture . . ." It gives the following definition of **obscenity**:

> "for the purpose of this Act, any publication a dominant characteristic of which is undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely crime, horror, cruelty and violence, shall be deemed to be obscene."

As well, this legislation includes the term "undue exploitation of sex". The courts have held what whether or not a particular item or depiction unduly exploits sex is to be determined by contemporary Canadian community standards.

Problems With the Existing Legislation

Since the early 1980's there has been growing concern on the part of the Canadian public and elected officials as to the effectiveness of the existing provisions of the **Criminal Code** which attempt to deal with the escalating problem of pornography. Specifically, areas of concern include:

1. Problems with the Community Standards Approach

- It has proven unworkable to link the definition of obscenity with a factor as vague as "community standards", since there is little agreement on what exactly constitutes Canadian community standards.
- There is concern that as people are exposed to pornography, they become desensitized to it and their tolerance increases. The result is a situation where producers and distributors of pornography set community standards rather than follow them.
- Those who view pornography as hate literature directed toward women, point out that the dignity of racial and ethnic groups is protected through standards set by law rather than through nebulous and constantly changing community standards.
- Police generally don't bring a case for prosecution unless a citizen's complaint is received. Complaints are considered indicators by the courts that particular material offends community standards. This presents a problem since the average citizen has no idea of the types of material which are available and thus does not complain.

2. Sexual Explicitness

The present definition of obscenity requires that crime, horror, cruelty or violence be linked with sex in order to be obscene. This emphasis on sexual explicitness has meant that materials which emphasize cruelty and violence but are not predominantly sexual in nature cannot be prosecuted.

There are two other provisions in the **Criminal Code** which relate to obscenity. Section 160 permits the seizure, forfeiture and disposal of "obscene" material and Section 16 prohibits the presentation of or participation in an "immoral, indecent or obscene" theatrical performance.

3. Protection for Children

Many people have expressed concern that the **Criminal Code** does not offer enough special protection to children. Much of the existing legislation was written before child pornography was as common as it is today or before pornography became so readily available to people of any age. Currently significant changes are being proposed to the **Criminal Code** in its control of pornography to ensure that it is able to keep pace with these changes in society.

B. Tied Sales

Corner store owners sometimes report that magazine and video distributors try to pressure them to accept pornographic materials along with those which are non-pornographic. This practice of tying the distribution of pornographic materials to the distribution of those which are non-pornographic is against the law. The **Criminal Code,** Section 161 "Tied Sales", states that:

"everyone commits an offence who refuses to sell or supply to any other person copies of any publication for the reason only that such other person refuses to purchase or acquire from him copies of any other publication that such other person is apprehensive may be obscene."

C. Importation of Pornography

Several pieces of legislation are designed to prevent people from importing pornography into Canada. The **Customs Tariff Act,** Section 14 prohibits the importation into Canada of any:

> "books, printed paper, drawings, paintings, prints, photographs or representation of a treasonable or seditious or of an immoral or indecent character."

This legislation is important because most pornography available in Canada is imported from the United States; however, there is a problem with its enforcement. There are only about 2,500 to 3,000 Customs Officers available to inspect 80 million people and 6.5 million commercial shipments entering Canada annually. The result is that only about five per cent of all commercial shipments are actually inspected.[1]

The **Criminal Code,** Section 164 states that it is an offence to make use of the mails for the "purpose of transmitting or delivering anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous . . ."

The **Canada Post Corporation Act** provides that any mail entering Canada which is prohibited entry by the **Customs Tariff Act** or is "obscene" under the **Criminal Code** may be opened and returned to the original distributor or not delivered. Canada Customs is allowed to inspect large packages entering the country through the mail, but only the Post Office can inspect letters and small packages. In practice, the Post Office does not make routine inspections, but responds to complaints.

At present, the **Criminal Code** does not penalize Canadians who import illegal pornographic materials. The only penalty to the consumer is that a shipment already paid for is destroyed or returned to the sender.

[1] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report), p. 153.

D. Television Broadcasting

Some concern has been expressed about pornography on television, particularly on "adult" pay television channels. The **Broadcasting Act** gives The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (C.R.T.C.) authority to regulate radio and television broadcasting including pay television.

The C.R.T.C.'s mandate does not allow it to censor or preview programs to be broadcast. It controls broadcasting by:

- Attaching program standards and conditions to a broadcast licence.
- Regulation. For example, it has regulated that pay television channels shall not distribute programming abusive of people on the basis of (among other things) their sex.
- Requiring broadcasters to self-regulate. For example, the C.R.T.C., after consultation with pay T.V. licencees, drew up a classification system to inform viewers about the content of programs shown.
- Initiating criminal sanctions. If a program contravenes the obscenity provisions in the **Criminal Code** the broadcaster can be charged under that legislation. Broadcasters can also be charged under the **Broadcasting Act** if they violate the terms of their licence or C.R.T.C. regulations. The C.R.T.C. has neither the resources nor the legislative mandate to monitor on-air programming. It depends on members of the public to bring possible violations to its attention.[2]

It should be noted that "adult" programming available by satellite television comes from the United States and cannot be stopped by Canadian regulatory agencies.

E. The Fraser Committee

In 1984, the federal government responded to public concern by establishing a **Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution** referred to as the **Fraser Committee** after its chairperson, Vancouver lawyer Paul Fraser. The committee held hearings across the country to gather the views of Canadians about pornography and prostitution. Its task was to use these views to prepare a set of recommendations for improving the laws and regulations that deal with pornography and prostitution.

The Fraser Committee submitted its report to the federal government in 1985. Its recommendations included the following:

- That a distinction be made between pornography and erotica. Material which includes violence, coercion and domination should be considered pornographic. Erotica may be sexually explicit but is non-violent, non-coercive and does not show one partner dominant over the other.
- That restrictions be placed on materials which violate human dignity but not on those which illustrate healthy sexuality.
- That the "community standards" test be eliminated
- That the production, distribution or possession of child pornography be a separate offence and that this prohibition be placed in the most serious category of offences.
- That selling visual pornographic materials to people under age 18 or displaying these materials so that they are accessible to people under 18 be an offence.

[2] **Pornography and Prostitution in Canada** (Fraser Report), p. 172-187.

- That for purposes of legal control, pornography be classified into three tiers:
  - Tier one materials – including those showing pornographic depictions of children, those advocating sexual relations with children, and those in which someone is actually harmed physically would be banned completely.
  - Tier two materials – those showing sexually violent behavior, bestiality, incest, and necrophilia would also be banned unless the accused could show educational or scientific purpose, or artistic merit.
  - Tier three material – would include all other pornographic materials and would be illegal only if displayed in public without a warning or made available to persons under age 18.[3]

The Fraser Report met with mixed public reaction. Its recommendations that children be given greater protection were generally received favourably; however, its suggestion that pornography be subjected to strict controls and erotica be decriminalized is highly controversial.

Recent Developments in Federal Law

Recognizing that the **Criminal Code** needs revision as it relates to pornography, the federal government made a commitment in its fall 1986 throne speech to take action against violent forms of pornography involving women and children. Several suggestions for change have been made and draft bills have been put forward.

II. Provincial Legislation

Film and Video Classification

Classifying films and videotapes is a provincial responsibility. Most provinces have established a board which reviews films to be shown in the province. Saskatchewan's Film Classification Board consists of a chairperson and at least two other members appointed by the Government. Currently there are seven people on the Board of which five can sit at any one time. The Board members are representatives of Saskatchewan's population as a whole. Their ages vary, they come from both urban and rural backgrounds and they work in a range of occupations.

A Film Classification Board has existed in the province since 1913. By classifying films, the Board provides information to citizens so they can make informed choices about what they and their children will view. With the passing of **The Film and Video Classification Act** of 1985, the Board's responsibilities were expanded to include videotapes as well as films. Presently the Board's mandate extends to all films and video materials publicly exhibited, sold or rented in Saskatchewan. All such materials must be classified by the Board unless exempted by the Board. The classifications used by the Board are the same for both film and video material. Classifications must be displayed in advertising and at theatre box offices. Videocassettes must be color-coded with a sticker which identifies each classification.

[3] This summary of the Fraser Committee's recommendations is based on material which originally appeared in: Brochu, Brenda. **Pornography: A Guide for Teenagers.** Grande Prairie: Pornography Action Committee, 1986. Used with permission.

There are four classifications:

GENERAL
Material is suitable for all ages.
Identified by a green circle.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE (Suggested)
Material may be of more mature content than "General". Parental guidance is suggested, but children are permitted unsupervised access.
Identified by a yellow square.

PARENTAL ACCOMPANIMENT (Required)
Persons under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a parent.
Identified by an orange triangle.

RESTRICTED
Only persons 18 years of age or older may view.
Identified by a red stop sign.

Additional details on the Film and Video Classification Program as well as the criteria for deciding which classification a particular film or video should carry are outlined in the brochures in the back pocket of the kit.

III. Municipal Legislation

Municipalities have the right to enact legislation concerning zoning and business licences. Some municipalities have used this type of legislation to control the operations of local pornography distributors. The status of such legislation is unclear. In at least one case where local legislation has been challenged, higher courts have declared it invalid because pornography is a federal matter, not a municipal one.

Community Education Workshop On Pornography

Many community, church and women's groups are interested in formally examining the subject of pornography through workshops or study groups to increase their understanding, clarify their individual views and determine if they should become involved and if so, what they can do.

An outline of a basic workshop format which can be presented in conjunction with the **Pornography: A Guide to Family and Community Education** kit to church or community groups as an introduction to the subject of pornography follows. The workshop is intended for an audience of male and female adults and older teenagers. It is approximately two to two and one-half hours long but can be extended to allow time for more content and discussion. Feel free to make any changes you want which will tailor the workshop to better meet the needs and interests of your group.

Pointers For Workshop Leaders/Facilitators

1. This workshop outline uses the kit **Pornography: A Guide to Family & Community Education** as its base. Read carefully through the kit to gain an overview of the issues and identify sources of information and sections and points you wish to focus on.

   As the topic of pornography can be difficult and even painful to explore, the following points will help you deliver a successful workshop taking into account the impact the topic has on people exploring it for the first time.
2. Explain at the beginning of the workshop that this is a difficult subject and clarify that anyone who is uncomfortable and wishes to leave the room is free to do so at any time, and free to return at any time.
3. Upon viewing pornography, some people may be upset, express strong feelings or cry. Be prepared for these feelings; affirm them (it's acceptable and natural to be upset or sad after seeing such material); and include ways in the workshop for group members to share their feelings. If strong feelings are not being expressed verbally, it may be helpful to hand out paper for people to write their feelings down. Some people find it difficult to express feelings from shock to arousal in a group setting.
4. The two and four-person discussion groups should be of the same sex. People usually feel more comfortable discussing this topic with people of the same sex, at least at first.
5. Some people may joke about pornography during the workshop, usually because they feel uneasy. Ask why the joke was made, than tell the person that you understand that this is a tough issue. Ask the person not to make jokes.

Suggested Workshop Timing

The workshop outlined will require approximately two and one-half hours to complete. The suggested timing for each of its components is:

Introduction and overview of key issues	15-20 minutes
Film viewing	15-30 minutes
Pair discussion	5-10 minutes
Large group discussion	20-25 minutes
Small group discussion — report back	30-40 minutes
Wrap-up	5 minutes

1. **Introduction and Overview of Key Issues** (15-20 minutes)
   - To begin, welcome the participants, introduce yourself and have others do the same if people don't know one another.
   - Caution participants that the topic to be discussed can be an upsetting one, advise people that they can leave if they wish, and provide a quick overview of the workshop format.
   - Explain that there is no single definition of pornography which is accepted by everyone.
   - Outline the different types of definitions from the kit and discuss the continuum from nudity and suggestions of sexual activity, to explicit portrayals of sexuality between equals, to depictions of violence, coercion and degradation with or without sex.

     Note: Feel free to duplicate from the kit any pages or material you would like to use for handouts. The "Common Terms" found on page 4 and 5 as well as the chart of the "Range of Public Opinion on Pornography" on page 4 might be useful here.

     A point to make is that the definitions available today in the research and writing on the subject tend to either focus on **abuse** or on **portrayals of sex.**
   - Explain that the availability of pornography is increasing (See pages 7 and 8 of the kit) and that the content has changed significantly and over the years become increasingly explicit and violent and degrading. Again feel free to duplicate any of the material in the kit.
   - Outline the reasons why many people are opposed to pornography. They believe that it:
     - exploits human sexuality, diminishing human relationships, human dignity and spirituality;
     - expresses and fosters contempt toward people and contributes to increases in violence toward women and children;
     - desensitizes viewers to pain and degradation inflicted on others and stimulates aggression;
     - confuses and distorts young people's and adult's concept of healthy sexuality.
     - promotes superficial, mechanical views of male/female relations and discourages the long-term emotional commitments necessary for successful family life.
     - promotes stereotyped images of "macho" men and "submissive" women, thus denying both men and women the opportunity to develop all aspects of their personalities, both in intimate relationships and in the larger world of work and society.

Ask group participants to share any additional concerns they may have about the influence of pornography.

- Advise the group that there is controversy both in the public and amongst researchers as to whether pornography does or does not adversely affect or influence viewers values, attitudes and behaviours.

2. **Film Viewing** (15-30 minutes)

   Show either **Killing Us Softly** or **Not A Love Story. Killing Us Softly** shows how advertising often features similar violent and degrading images of women that are seen in pornography. This is an excellent introductory film for a group which knows little about and has no exposure to pornography. **Killing Us Softly** is perhaps a gentler introduction to the topic than **Not A Love Story** which includes a wide selection of actual pornographic images providing a comprehensive view of the content available on the market today. This is a very useful film in educating concerned individuals but can be upsetting. It's a good idea to preview them both and decide which one is best for your group. You may wish to hold two sessions and show each. Libraries from which these films may be borrowed appear in the **Resource List.**

   Alternately, you may prefer to gather up and show a collection of samples of what is available in videos, magazines, etc.

3. **Pair Discussion** (5-10 minutes)

   Ask the participants to divide up into "same-sex" pairs to discuss these questions:
   - What did you see?
   - What really stands out in your mind? Why?
   - How do you feel?

4. **Large Group Discussion** (20-25 minutes)

   Call the group together. Ask the participants to share their feelings with the group. Ask some of the questions below if necessary to keep discussion going.

Questions	**Discussion Leads for Facilitators** (Use only if necessary)
a. Did you know this material existed? Had you seen or heard about pornography? Do you avert your eyes when you walk by "adult" magazines?	
b. What images hit you hardest? Why?	
c. What do these images do to the women illustrated in them?	– objectify them, violate and degrade them. – separate their bodies from their souls and minds, ignore everything about them except their bodies.
d. What images does this film offer of women and men? Is that your experience? Is that generally reflective of society?	– women: dumb, competitive with other women, sex objects, exist only for men's sexual use, enjoy pain and humiliation. – men: tough, strong, unemotional, violent, superior to women, enjoy inflicting pain and humiliation.
e. What do these images say about male/female relationships?	– superficial based only on sex, no emotional commitment, no interest in long-term relationships or family life.

f. What do these images say about human sexuality? Dignity? Respect?

5. **Small Group Discussion — Report Back** (30-40 minutes)

   Divide the participants into "same-sex" groups of four. Ask each group to come up with as many ideas as possible for dealing with the issue of pornography. In order to get discussion started you may wish to offer some of the suggestions outlined in the "What Can Be Done" section of the kit beginning on Page 12.

   Groups may wish to record their suggestions on a large flip chart. Get the group to appoint a spokesperson who will then report back to the whole group. Reporting back allows the small groups to share their ideas with all other participants.

6. **Wrap-Up** (5 minutes)

   Try to end the workshop on a positive note. Thank the participants for coming and summarize the things that individuals, families and small groups can do about pornography. Again, you may find pages 12-13 and 15-18 of the kit helpful. Remind the participants that by attending the workshop they have taken a significant step toward solving the problem.[1]

[1] Workshop adapted from material which originally appeared in:
Fairheart, Joanna. **Pornography Hurts.** Toronto: Ecumenical Task Force on Pornography, 1985. Used with permission.

Guidelines for Letter Writing[2]

Writing letters to those who produce and distribute pornography and to elected officials is an effective way of making your views known and working toward change. When you write to corporations, advertisers, film, T.V. and record producers, you make them aware of public opinion and of how society views their products.

Writing to political figures is not only a matter of influencing them or changing their minds. They also want and need to know when you support certain programs and how the general public feels about current issues.

Just as letters of concern are important, so are letters of support. If you are happy with the actions of businesses, advertisers, political figures, etc. it's useful to let them know that you support what they are doing.

Your letter should present your ideas clearly, reasonably and as non-threateningly as possible. Here are some useful pointers:

- Use the business letter format, including the date, your name and address and the name, proper title and address of the person you are writing to.
- State your specific concern. If you are writing to a company about a specific picture or image describe the picture and enclose a copy if possible.
- Identify yourself as an authority. If you are a member of an organization, say so — let the person to whom you are writing know that your opinion represents many others as well.
- If you are writing about pornography in general, state clearly why you object to it. Refer to pages 7 to 10 of the kit for some examples.
- If you are writing to a company, tell them that you will no longe support them because of the image they project in their advertising or the material they distribute.
- Suggest positive alternatives. You might say "I believe it is important to portray women as intelligent and competent people rather than as willing and deserving victims."
- State your personal requests clearly. Say that you would like a personal reply, not a form letter. Let the people to whom you are writing know what you would like them to do. If you are writing to a company you might request that they stop renting pornographic videos. If you are writing to political figures you might ask that they support specific pieces of legislation or education programs.
- Send your letter to all concerned. Use the notation "cc" (carbon copies) at the bottom of your letter, listing all the individuals and organizations to whom you are sending copies.
- If you are writing about something which appeared in the media, send your letter to the media in which the offensive image appeared, to the manufacturer/producer of the product/image and the advertising company. You might also send it to the editor of your local newspaper, church or women's publication or anti-violence in the media (MediaWatch) group. The more people you make aware of the situation, the better.
- Involve your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues in letter writing. Have them sign your letter or have them write their own. Companies and political figures are aware that each letter written represents the opinion of many who did not bother to write. When more people are involved in letter-writing, the effectiveness of each letter is multiplied.

Following as a guide are two sample letters which might be used to make your concern known, or lend your support.

[2] Guidelines for Letter Writing adapted from material which originally appeared in: **Pornography: A Human Rights Issue Which Concerns Both Men and Women.** Montreal: Montreal Council of Women, 1984. Used with permission.

Writing a Letter of Concern

Your address) 105 Main Street East
) Regina, Sask. S4S 3X0
date) May 31, 1987

Name) Business
Proper Title) letter
Address) format

Dear Mr./Mrs. _____:

I am writing this letter to you as head of (or as Minister of/or in charge of, etc.)

_____

My concern is with your company's (or government's/or agency's, etc.). (Include pictures or describe what offends you).

_____

_____

_____

I object to this because _____

_____

_____

In future, I suggest that you (suggest positive alternatives)

_____

_____

_____

I write as a member of _____ (name of group and what it does) which works to _____, as well as personally as a concerned citizen (or parent/member of church).

Your early reply (personal, rather than a form letter) would be appreciated. Thank you for your co-operation and consideration of my concern.

Yours sincerely,

_____ Your name
Title and name of organization if applicable

Writing a Letter of Support

Your address) 105 Main Street East
) Regina, Sask. S4S 3X0
date) May 31, 1987

Name) Business
Proper Title) letter
Address) format

Dear Mr./Mrs. _____:

I am writing this letter to you as head of (or as Minister of/or in charge of, etc.)

_____

Your support of _____

(be specific) is appreciated because _____

_____

I agree (or name of organization you represent agrees) with this initiative as I (or we) believe _____

_____

In future, I (or we) also ask that you (make further suggestions if needed)

_____

_____

_____

I write to you as (a member of _____/concerned citizen/ parent/member of _____ church)

Thank you for your contributions in this area, and I look forward to the changes which you are helping to bring about.

Yours sincerely,

_____ Your name
Title and name of organization if applicable

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Resource List

1. **Addresses**

   Letters expressing general concerns about pornography may be directed to the following government agencies:

   Office of the Prime Minister
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1A 0A2
   No stamp necessary

   Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women
   Box 1541, Station B
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1P 5R5
   No stamp necessary

   Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
   House of Commons
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1A 0A6
   No stamp necessary

   Your Member of Parliament
   House of Commons
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1A 0A6
   No stamp necessary

   Leader of the Opposition
   House of Commons
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1A 0A6
   No stamp necessary

   Saskatchewan Women's Directorate
   Dept. of Human Resources, Labour and Employment
   4th Floor, 1914 Hamilton Street
   Regina, Saskatchewan
   S4P 4V4

   Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council
   Chairperson
   Dept. of Human Resources, Labour and Employment
   4th Floor, 1914 Hamilton Street
   Regina, Saskatchewan
   S4P 4V4

   Your Member of the Legislative Assembly
   Legislative Building
   Regina, Saskatchewan
   S4S 0B3

   General letters can also be directed to the major political parties:

   Liberal Party of Canada
   102 Bank Street
   Ottawa, Ontario
   K1P 5N4

Saskatchewan Liberal Association
2180 - 12th Avenue, Suite 204
P.O. Box 4401
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3W7

New Democratic Party (Federal Headquarters)
301 Metcalf Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1R9

New Democratic Party, Saskatchewan Office
T. C. Douglas House
1122 Saskatchewan Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0C4

Progressive Conservative Party of Canada
161 Laurier West, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5J2

Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan
2150 Scarth Street, Suite 200
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2H7

Letters concerning radio and television broadcasting can be sent to:

President
Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N2

Minister of Communications
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
No stamp necessary

President
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
CBC Building
1500 Bronson Avenue
Box 8478
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 3J5

Co-ordinator, Portrayal of Women
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
CBC Building
1500 Bronson Avenue
Box 8478
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 3J5

President
CTV Television Network Ltd.
42 Charles Street E.
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1T5

Concerns about movies and videotapes available in Saskatchewan should be directed to:

Film Classification Board
Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs
1871 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7

Letters concerning the **Criminal Code** and other federal legislation should be sent to:

Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
No stamp necessary

Numerous citizens' groups are concerned about and working to eliminate pornography. Some of these are listed below. All would welcome your membership and support.

Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography
P.O. Box 1075, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R1

MediaWatch
250 - 1820 Fir
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6J 3B1

National Action Committee on the Status of Women
#306 - 40 St. Clair Avenue E.
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M9

Regina Against Pornography
107 Plainsview Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6K1

Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women
2149 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2V1

2. **Films**

Killing Us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women. Ottawa: Cambridge Documentary Films (distributed by Kinetic Films), 1979. 28 minutes.

This is an excellent film for a group which knows little about pornography. The ads included in the film show the same degrading and violent images seen in pornography.

Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography. Ottawa: National Film Board, 1981. 68 minutes.

This film would be helpful for groups already familiar with the issue. There is a wide selection of pornographic images, and a good analysis of the industry. It is not recommended for groups just beginning to study the issue.

Both of these films may be borrowed from the National Film Board:

111 - 2001 Cornwall Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2K6
Telephone: 780-5012

424 - 21st Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 0C2
Telephone: 975-4245

(Note: The Regina office of the NFB is scheduled to close at some unspecified date in the future.)

Killing Us Softly can also be borrowed from some public libraries and from:

The Consumer Information Centre
Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs
1871 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7
Telephone: 787-5578

3. **Basic Reading**

The kits and articles listed below provide a good introduction to the topic of pornography. Those marked with an asterisk can be borrowed from the Consumer Information Centre at Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs, 1871 Smith Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7, Telephone: 787-5578. Ordering addresses are provided for some of the kits. Articles from back issues of popular magazines can usually be obtained from your local public library.

Atwood, Margaret. Atwood on pornography. **Chatelaine,** Vol. 56, #9, September 1983, pp. 61, 118+.

One of Canada's best known writers outlines the reasons why she is opposed to pornography.

*Brochu, Brenda. **Pornography: A Guide for Teenagers.** Grande Prairie, Alta.: Pornography Action Committee, 1986.

Although written for high school classrooms, this guide is suitable for anyone who wants an introduction to the topic of pornography. It provides an explanation of what pornography is and includes sections on pornography and violence, pornography and human rights and the legal aspects of pornography. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and suggested classroom activities. An accompanying teacher's guide is also available. Available from: Mrs. Tina Rogers, 10257 - 112th Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alta., T8V 1V9. Cost: $20.00 per set. (Set includes student guide and accompanying teacher's guide).

Donnerstein, Edward and Lintz, Daniel. Sexual violence in the media: A Warning. **Psychology Today,** Vol. 18, #1, January 1984, pp. 14-15.

This article summarizes recent research which shows a definite link between sexual violence and pornography.

*Fairheart, Joanna. **Pornography Hurts.** Toronto: Ecumenical Task Force on Pornography, 1985.

This booklet includes detailed outlines of four different workshops, varying in length from one and one-half hours to four weeks, which can be used to raise awareness about pornography. It also includes several articles and handouts suitable for use in a workshop situation. Available from: The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, 77 Charles Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M6S 1K5. Cost: $7.00.

Kreps, Bonnie. The case against pornography. **Homemakers',** Vol. 17, June 1982, pp. 6-8, 10+.

This article provides a good overview of pornography and the industry. It also recounts Kreps' personal experience of viewing pornography at her corner store.

Jeffrey, Liss. Hard-core capitalists. **Canadian Business,** Vol. 57, #11, November 1984, pp. 44-52.

The business aspects of pornography are discussed. The article describes the immense profits made in this industry and outlines some of the problems associated with its control.

***Pornography: An Issue for Educators.** Toronto: The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, 1985.

This is a comprehensive kit which includes a booklet on pornography and reprints of sixteen articles and reports on various aspects of this topic. Available from: The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, 1260 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2B4. Cost: $10.00.

***Pornography: A Human Rights Issue Which Concerns Both Men and Women.** Montreal: Montreal Council of Women, 1984.

In addition to providing an overview of the topic, this booklet offers excellent suggestions on action which can be taken to fight pornography. Available from: Montreal Council of Women, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, H3C 3P3. Cost: $1.00.

***Pornography Hurts.** Edmonton: Positive Action Against Pornography.

This kit includes background information on pornography, lists of suggested readings and suggestions for activities which can be used to fight the problem. Available from: Positive Action Against Pornography, #202, 10005 - 149th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 1K8. Cost: $4.00.

Sanford, Linda Tschirhart and Donovan, Mary Ellen. What you should know about pornography. **Reader's Digest** (Canadian), Vol. 129, #722, June 1982, pp. 201-4.

This article summarizes the reasons why pornography is harmful and makes some practical suggestions for dealing with the problem.

4. Further Research

The articles and books listed below are useful to people wishing to do in-depth research on the topic of pornography. Those marked with an asterisk can be borrowed from the Consumer Information Centre at Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs, 1871 Smith Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7, Telephone: 787-5578. Others may be available through your public library.

Dworkin, Andrea. **Pornography: Men Possessing Women.** New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1979.

This book examines the meaning of pornography and the system of power in which pornography exists. Its theme is the power of men in pornography.

Finn, Geraldine. Patriarchy and pleasure: The pornographic eye/I. **Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory,** Vol. 9, Nos. 1-2, Hiver/Printemps 1985, pp. 81-95.

This is a scholarly article examining the power relationships upon which pornography is based.

Hughes, Patricia. Pornography: Alternatives to censorship. **Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory,** Vol. 9, Nos. 1-2, Hiver/Printemps 1985, pp. 96-126.

This article offers an academic analysis of what pornography is, what its functions are in our society and what can be done to combat it.

*Lederer, Laura. **Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography.** New York: William Morrow, 1980.

This collection of short essays covers definitions of pornography, its effects, who benefits from its existence, suggestions for action and the censorship question. A good overview of the issues.

Malamuth, Neil M., and Donnerstein, Edward, (Eds.). **Pornography and Sexual Aggression.** Orlando: Academic Press, 1984.

This book consists of several essays by different authors, all exploring the laboratory research and real-life evidence linking pornography and sexual violence.

*Masterson, John. The effects of erotica and pornography on attitudes and behaviour: A review. **Bulletin of the British Psychological Society,** Vol. 37, August 1984, pp. 249-252.

This article consists of a review of the literature from the early 1970's to the present day.

Ratterman, Debbie. Pornography: The spectrum of harm. **Aegis: Magazine on Ending Violence Against Women,** #36, Autumn 1982, pp. 42-52.

This bibliographic essay summarizes the major themes in the anti-pornography movement and reviews the most significant research done during the 1970's and early 1980's.

*Riddington, Jillian. Pornography: What does the new research say? **Status of Women News,** Vol. 8, #3, Summer 1983, pp. 9-13.

This article gives a clear, concise explanation of all aspects of the research — that which is done scientifically, and that which is known because of women's experiences.

5. **Recent studies which show relationship between violence and pornography.**

Donnerstein, Edward and Hallam, John. Facilitating effects of pornography and aggression against women. **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,** Vol. 36, #11, November 1978, p. 1270-1277.

Donnerstein, Edward. Aggressive erotica and violence against women. **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,** Vol. 39, #2, August 1980, pp. 269-277.

Malamuth, Neil M. and Check, James V. P. The effects of mass media exposure on the acceptance of violence against women: A field experiment. **Journal of Research in Personality,** Vol. 15, 1981, pp. 436-446.

Meyer, T. P. The effects of sexually arousing and violent films on aggressive behaviour. **The Journal of Sex Research,** Vol. 8, #4, 1972, pp. 324-331.

Zillman, Dolf, and Bryant, Jennings. Pornography, sexual callousness, and the trivialization of rape. **Journal of Communication,** Vol. 32, #4, Autumn 1982, pp. 10-21.

The current research is summarized in:

Masterson, John. The effects of erotica and pornography on attitudes and behaviour: A review. **Bulletin of the British Psychological Society,** Vol. 37, August 1984, pp. 249-252.

Ridington, Jillian. Pornography: What does the new research say? **Status of Women News,** Vol. 8, #3, Summer 1983, p. 9-13.

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